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LB 75

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Baker, on the Chambers amendment to the Senator Connealy...

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I think this entire amendment and the amendment to the amendment creates way more mischief than enough, and I also get a kind of chuckle out of this not being a mandate, it's just a requirement. And I guess to chide Senator Connealy a little bit on this. I'm going to have to go look up the difference. I can't remember what it is. And Senator Chambers has already taken part of my five minutes here. But capitalism, whatever happened to good old capitalism in this case? Markets have always worked well, at least in my estimation they've worked well. The retailers see a demand. If there's a profit in it, they'll fill that void. If there isn't, they're not going to invest in additional equipment, tanks and so on. Whatever happened to that? We're going to force these people to offer this product. Unless you want to go the whole way and try and stipulate what they're going to price this for, you still don't have any guarantee they're going to price it at or below the cost of 87 octane. It just...you know, you could see retailers, as Senator Schrock continues to point out, now that's what they're doing. This bill isn't going to change that in the least, what they're doing now. And to be honest with you, there aren't very many people doing that anymore. I think this debate is focused on the issue that I've tried to focus on, that right now it's the same price and, doggone it, the retailers are out there charging more for 89 octane ethanol, have no reason to do that. It's priced the same. And if the continued drop in the ethanol market, then we will follow the market down, and we'll price 89 octane ethanol cheaper than we sell 87 octane no lead, and we'll sell more of it because it's a better product. That's good old capitalism, the free market is going again. Back to this amendment. As to the practical matter, the amendment says one tank, and I can tell you right now my local co-op put in a new tank, one tank, has two compartments in it. So I don't know, we're going to have to either define some things here or something or other. It's one tank. I watched them put it in, I'm a shareholder there, and they don't sell ethanol, by the way. They sell diesel fuel and 87 octane no lead. But the practical matter of this amendment is it's we got to put some